

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, July 25. 1712.

THEY very much mistake me, who think to find me rejoicing at the defeat of the Dutch Troops; indeed, if by this Accident our Neighbours and Confederates, for yet I may call them such, may be led to consider what they are doing, when they run headlong into a War without Us, which they once DECLAR'D they could *very ill carry on*, tho' we assisted with all our Power; if, I say, this may be the Fruit of this Blow, I shall rejoice in the Fruit, tho' I do not at the Planting.

We that are lookers on upon the great Affairs Transacting Abroad, have a very strange Prospect, and this, indeed, is the Occasion of our Strife and Contention about it; no considering thinking Man, can wish or desire that the Dutch should be beaten or overcome by the French,

we cannot think of it without Horror; *Protestants* by *Papists*, a Fred by an Arbitrary Government; the Reasons are two; 1st, Because the *Protestant Interest* must suffer by it, be Weakened and Endanger'd, and in that Particular, every true Protestant is Concern'd. 2^{dly}, Because the *Dutch* are our Barrier, against not *France* only, but all the rest of *Europe*, and were they once Subdu'd, we should be driven to defend our own Coast next, and if we had any War afterward, it must be at our own Door.

Yet there are likewise two Reasons, why, *Circumstances consider'd*, we cannot wish to have the Confederates beat the *French*, mark ye, that wait to catch and cavil, even at your own Sense, it express'd but in Words, or by a Person you do not please to like— *Circumstances consider'd*

consider'd — And what are these Circumstances? These Circumstances are, 1st. That the Queen of Great Britain has; by the Negotiations lately enter'd into, declared she is Satisfied in the French Proposals, that an Honourable Reasonable Peace may be founded upon them, and therefore, that she cannot in Conscience, carry on the War any longer; 2dly, That upon this Declaration we are Separated from the Confederates in the Field, and that, not with the greatest Testimonies of Kindness and Obligation, that ever were in the World; and 3dly, That upon this Separation the Auxiliary Troops have left us, and the Confederates have Undertaken to carry on the War without us — I have nothing to do with the *Why* or the *How* all this is come to pass, that is nothing to the Case, but *thus it is*; now in this Circumstance, two Things must be the Consequence of this War going on; 1. If the Dutch obtain the End they aim'd at, they Exalt a Popish Imperial Exorbitance, which I say is dangerous to Europe and to the Protestant Interest, and therefore, had King Charles III. remain'd as he was, I should have thought us happy in pushing his Title as King of Spain, but since he is made EMPEROR too, which I think the worst and most Impolitick Step that ever was taken by the Confederates, since that Time, I have no more to say or seek upon that part: 2d'y, As this War is carried on without us, so as I have said before, if it succeeds, it will fall upon us, and we shall inevitably be brought into a New War, even with our Protestant

Confederates — Which is a terrible Prospect, and which no Man in his Senses can desire to see.

Now supposing these to be the Consequences, How can any Man in his most serious Thoughts wish Success to either Side? What Entangled perplex'd Circumstances are the Affairs of Europe brought to, that we can neither wish Success to one Side or other, nor can join neither with one Side or other? And what is the just Consequence of this, I mean, as to our making a Judgment, but that we pray that a good Peace may Reconcile all those clashing Interests, and restore a good Neighbourhood and a good Understanding to all the Protestant Princes of Europe; and this I do with all my Heart, and as much as some think I dislike prescrib'd Forms of Prayer, I join heartily with this Church Prayer, *Give Peace in our Time O Lord.*

We are now expecting the Substance of her Majesty's Resolutions, in a new Declaration of the Queen's which is now delivered at the Congress, and a full draft of a Peace by the King of France, and I am still in hopes the Dutch will see so much of their own Safety and Interest on one Hand, and that the Queen is so much in earnest on the other Hand, for the obtaining a Peace, and getting Just and Honourable Conditions for them, that they will no longer stand out, and I dread the Consequence, even for them, if they do not, I hope they will prevent our Fears.

But shall we not say then, would to God they had done it before, that such a Flood or Stream of Christian Blood

Blood might not have been spilt, as has been at this terrible Action of *Denain*— And what shall we say to the manner of the Surprize? Why had not the Earl of *Albemarle* notice of the March of the French, time enough to have made his Retreat, either to *Doway* or *Marchiennes*; they came on in the middle of the Day, 't a Clock Afternoon; they had a March from *Hasper* of two Leagues and a half; and above 30000 Men could not March undiscover'd, we cannot account for it in the ordinary course of Things; the Generals who Commanded, are not Men whose Conduct used to be found fault with; they are all active vigilant, Experienc'd old Soldiers.

if the God of Battles has laid down being the real God of War; if the Sovereign Ruler of the World has no Hand in any of these Great Affairs, then the Human Conduct of these Men ought to be enquir'd into, and they ought to be call'd to an Account for the Blood of all the poor Men Sacrifiz'd upon this Occasion; for having no Scouts out, neither before them or behind them, letting themselves be surpriz'd in the middle of the Day, not by a Flying Party, not by a Body of Cavalry, whose Motion being swift, might be upon them before they were aware, but by a whole Army, by 40 Battallions of Foot one Way, and 16 Battallions another Way; that they should not have intelligence of such a March as this, time enougah to have made their Retreat so little a Way, as to the Bridge of *Marchiennes*, or to the Cannon of *Doway*; but to let 30000 Men

come up to their Entrenchments, without making any Motion to secure themselves; this is the most unaccountable Thing that can be.

To make some sorry Defence for this, the poor *Scots* must come in for a Slander, and they are charg'd with no less than Treachery, Betraying the rest; I should have plac'd this, indeed, among one of the *Lyes* of the Week, but that we have yet no exact Particulars— But this, I believe, may be said at a Venture.

1st, The Time is to come in this Age, and perhaps less of it has happened in any Age, than any other Nation can boast of, whenever a Regiment of *Scotch* Soldiers either betray'd their Trust, or behav'd ill in the Time of Action; all the *Scots* Cowards, I believe, died a great while ago, and they who call the *Scot's* Cowards, will hardly meet them in the Field, and tell them so; and therefore they who would lay this upon them, either do not know the *Scots*, or do not know the Regiments they think they are talking of.

2^{ly}, The pretence of the *Scots* not doing their Duty, is spread about as if it had been by some Regiments of our Army; but this cannot be, none of the Queen's Troops being left behind by the Duke of *Ormond*; but all Men know that there is a Brigade of *Scot's* in the Dutch Service, and if there were any *Scotch* Regiments in this Action, it must be of that Brigade, and all the Regiments of that Brigade have given so many Proofs, both of their Fidelity and Gallantry, that none that knows them will Charge them, or so

so much as suspect them, either of Cowardice or Treachery; I wonder to see that some who ought to have more Respect to a Nation they are so nearly related to, should suffer a Reflection of that Nature upon them, to be publish'd with so little Ground.

But to come back to the Action itself; if he that guides not the Armies only, but the War, had, as I said, any Hand in this matter, and if his having any Hand in it is regarded by us, I would recommend it to some People to consider, whether this Action is not some Rebuke to the great Boasts they have made of the certainty of Success in this Separate War; God give the Dutch Hearts to consider their own Safety, and how much the Protestant Interest depends upon that Safety, before they take their final Resolutions, and before they take that Step which they cannot Retrieve.

In short, nothing but a Peace can save Europe, and can save the Protestant Interest, and can save the Protestant Succession — And yet we will run the Hazard of all these for a War! And pray why are we so bent upon a War? The main Reason is this, *I appeal to themselves*; some honest Men may have more Reasons, but the main Reason is this, *viz.* That they think by a War, they shall pull down the New Ministry; the Gentlemen are not so false to themselves but they will own this.

Well, how does this consist with saying the Ministry are for a War with the Dutch? What, are they for Peace and War at the same time? Do they not desire Peace a-

bove all Things? And, can they be thought to break it again as soon as it is made? But this is not all, nothing is more absurd than to say the Ministry are for a War.

I have nothing to do here with the Steps the Ministry have taken; the Ministry want none of my Vindication, and if they did, I should vindicate no more of any one's Measures, than my just Sentiments approv'd; but let their Measures be what they will, good or bad, do ye think the Ministry Fools, that they will not support their own Measures against Foreign Influence? Blind and Infatuated Nation! whether are we running? Will ye hazard the Protestant Interest, the Succession, and the Pretender, and all to pull down the Ministry? Well may the Tories charge us with bringing in the Pretender, for this is doing it with our own Hands — Reflect a little I beseech you! What if ye fail, as our good Friends did lately? Let the Consequence be consider'd: They gave up the Dissenters to Ruin the Ministry, What follow'd? The Project fail'd, the Ministry stood, and and the Dissenters sunk; now you'll risque the Protestant Interest to Ruin the Ministry, What if you fail? The Ministry stands, and the Protestant Interest sinks, and the like of the Pretender and the Protestant Succession; for God sake, and for the sake of our Protestant Posterity, consider, Is not any Peace better than all this? What if the Peace be not to our Minds? What if we cannot pull down the Ministry? This is Acherronta moves with a Vengeance; Will ye raise the Devil to pull down this Ministry? To say the Ministry desire a War with the Dutch is Absurd, as I have often said; It is not their Interest, and they are no Fools, that you all acknowledge; Peace is what they want, VVvar will do them no Service, let it be with who it will — Tis Ridiculous to say the Ministry are for a War with the Dutch: If I VVrite, as none but Rascals and Knaves can say, for the Ministry, I must the rather write against a VVvar with Holland than for it; it is cutting the Throats of the Ministry to write for a War with Holland, unless they are forc'd to it by the Dutch carrying on the Separate VVvar; the Ministry must be Distracted, if in their present Circumstances, they begin a VVvar with any Body.